

THE METROPOLITAN IMPROVEMENTS.

The greater portion of the houses between Charlotte-street, Bloomsbury, and Oxford-street—to be removed for the formation of the new street—have been taken down to the foundation. Among the number is the Hare and Hounds public-house, situate near the station-house of the E. division, which was formerly a celebrated resort of the Londoners in the 16th and 17th centuries. Till the reign of Charles II. it was known by the sign of the Beggars' Bush, when the name became altered in consequence of a hare having been hunted and caught there, where it was afterwards cooked and eaten. This locality has undergone many changes. There was during the reign of Henry I. an hospital for lepers, which was founded by Matilda, the wife of that king; and subsequently the scaffold was removed to the spot from Smithfield, upon which the first victim was Lord Cobham, the friend of Henry V., who was hung in chains, and burnt by a slow fire, and which scaffold was afterwards taken to Tyburn. In a few days the site of the above public-house will be lost, as it will be nearly in the centre of the new street. Between Bedford Chapel and High-street, St. Giles's, which was a short time ago the parish stone-yard—poles are erected to form the line of the new houses, the cellars of which are now being formed. In Belton-street, leading from High-street to Long Acre, the new church of Christ Church, the foundation-stone of which was laid a few weeks ago on the east side of the street, is in a state of great forwardness, and but few houses remain between there and Long Acre to be demolished. In Cranborne-street, an entirely new pavement has been laid down, giving the public thoroughfare all the appearance of a street; and in a short time houses will be erected on the opposite side, for which the various cellars are formed.

THE NEW ROYAL EXCHANGE.—On Saturday afternoon much interest and curiosity were excited in Cheapside on observing a vehicle proceeding slowly along, with a partially covered colossal figure in it, from the studio of Westmacott, the sculptor. Many persons, believing it to be the celebrated statue of the Duke of Wellington intended to be raised to front of the new Exchange, followed it to the spot, when it proved to be one of the figures for ornamenting the pediment of that edifice, many of which were already within the inclosure, and some of them elevated to their places. They are all colossal, of Carrara marble, and emblematic of British industry and enterprise.

ROYAL INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS.—The following are the office bearers for the ensuing year:—President, W. D. Hoare, Esq.; Vice-presidents, Messrs. H. E. Kendall, J. B. Popworth, and George Smith; Members of Council, Messrs. W. Booth, Foxhall, George Godwin, W. Grellier, S. Beazley, James Noble, C. Parker, W. F. Pocock, H. Roberts, and James Thompson; Hon. Secretaries, Messrs. A. Poynter, and G. Bailey; Foreign Secretary, T. L. Donaldson.

GERMANY.—The statue of Goethe meets in Frankfurt with a fate so similar to that of Byron in London, which has lain in the Custom-house for several years. The magistrates of Frankfurt did not appoint any place for the town to erect Goethe's statue; it will be placed in a lonely alley, without the gates of the city of his birth.

WOOLWICH.—Under the superintendence of Capt. Denison, civil engineer, of her Majesty's dock-yard, Woolwich, a considerable enlargement of that establishment is about to take place. For the time past much inconvenience has been felt in consequence of want of room by the boiler-makers belonging to the yard.

COAL-FIRE ENGINES.—The number of pumping-engines reported for the month of April is 3,370—the quantity of coals consumed being 3,380 tons, lifting, in the aggregate, 31,000,000 tons of water 10 fathoms high. The average duty of the whole is, therefore, 87,000,000 lbs. lifted 1 foot high by the consumption of a bushel of coal.—*Mining Journal.*

The beautiful New-road, from the High-street, Cheltenham, to the back of the College, formed at the expense and under the direction of the late Sir Matthew Wood, was thrown open to the public on Thursday week.

ARCHDEACON ONFLOW ON PEWS.—The

reverend archdeacon next alluded to the subject of selling, letting, and disposing of pews in parish churches. He had understood that this practice still obtained within his archdeaconry. In addition to buying and selling, he was informed that in some instances persons had claimed certain pews as their own property, who had not even a residence in the parish, or were absolutely separatists! He thought this irregularity arose from ignorance of the law rather than from an intentional infraction thereof. He was aware that in these days the existence of pews was condemned, and the restoration of open seats recommended; but he did not entirely concur in the sentiment. Pews were useful, as private accommodation for families, who necessarily felt a greater comfort in worshipping together and being united in the house of God. Pews were also conducive to a more undivided attention to the services. Nevertheless, he did not approve of them when not in keeping with the style of the building, or when they were unsightly, or obstructed the view of the pulpit. But to return to the question of right. It might be laid down as a general rule that all pews were the property of the parish; but the disposal of them was left to the ordinary, that is, the bishop, and to the churchwarden under him. They were to be allotted to the inhabitants according to rank and station, and in proportion to the extent of their families. It was also recommended that the churchwardens should be guided by the advice of the minister. The bishop's authority in the disposal of pews could only be superseded by faculty or prescription. Prescription could only be maintained by immemorial usage, and constant repairs by the claimant; for if proof of repair by the parish was adduced, the prescription would end. A faculty appropriated a pew in respect of a house, its occupier of which, as long as he remained in the house, and was a member of the church, was entitled to the pew; but on the house being re-let, the former tenant could have no further right. Claims were sometimes made on the plea of long possession, without disturbance; but this could not be maintained. Even the erection of a seat would not convey a permanent right; nor would the grant of a seat to any person and his heirs be legal. Now, if such was the law, it followed that the letting and selling of pews must be a violation thereof. Such things could only be done by Act of Parliament. Thus, in new churches, where large spaces were usually set apart for the poor, the pews were permitted to be let, in order to provide an income for the clergyman. Churchwardens had also been empowered to let the pews and apply the rents for repairs in certain instances. In proprietary chapels, which, as partaking of the nature of private property, did not come within the range of ecclesiastical laws, pews were legally let and sold.—*Address at Pershore, 21st May.*

THE PLIMOUTH BREAKWATER LIGHTHOUSE is completed. The light is at an elevation of 63 feet above the level of high-water spring tides, and appears red in all directions seaward, and white within the line of the breakwater. A bell is attached to the lighthouse, which is to be rung at intervals in foggy weather.

The Earl of Aberdeen has purchased Sir William Allan's picture of "Sir Walter Scott dictating to his daughter in the study at Abbotsford," now in the exhibition of the Royal Academy.

TENDERS.

TENDERS delivered for alterations Ac., to the Salisbury Vicarage.—Alfred Anger, Esq., Architect. May 21.	
Woolcott and Son.....	2326
Locke and Newham.....	895
Barton and Sons.....	843
Piper and Sons.....	796

TO OUR CORRESPONDENTS.

The sketch of paneling is received and ordered to be engraved. We should like to be favoured with addresses to a large scale, of the boxes, crockets, spandrels, and other carving.

Current Prices of Materials.

June 11, 1844.

STRAIT.—Foreign ton ..	£ s. d.	21 0 0	22 0 0
For delivery ..		21 10 0	21 15 0
English sheet ..		0 0 0	30 0 0
QUINQUEVITES ..	per lb.	0 4 6	
Iron.—English bar, per ton 6 ..		5 0 0	4 10 0
Nail rods ..		0 0 0	7 0 0
Hoops ..		0 0 0	8 0 0
Sheets ..		0 0 0	9 0 0
Cargo in Wales ..		0 0 0	8 15 0
Rig, No. 1, Wales 3 15 0 ..		4 0 0	
No. 1, Clyde 0 0 0 ..		3 5 0	
For., Swedish ..		9 5 0	9 10 0
Russian, common ..		16 10 0	
Swedish keg, p. ton ..		0 0 0	17 0 0
Faggots ..		0 0 0	17 10 0
Copper.—English sheeting, per lb. ..		0 0 0	9 1/2
Old .. ditto ..		0 0 0	8 1/2
Cake p. ton ..		52 0 0	85 0 0
Tin ..		80 0 0	81 0 0
S. American ..		72 0 0	74 0 0
English, blocks, Ac. out ..		8 15 0	
Bars ..		0 0 0	8 15 0
Foreign Bars ..		0 0 0	3 7 0
Strait ..		0 0 0	3 4 0
Peruvian ..		0 0 0	3 0 0
Tin plates, No. 1C, p. box 1 ..		8 10 0	8 15 0
No. 1X ..		1 14 0	1 19 0
Waters 3c, p. box less ..			
Sheet milled ..	per ton	17 15 0	
Shot, patterned ..		0 0 0	19 15 0
Red ..		21 10 0	
White ..		23 10 0	
Pig-LEAD.—English ..		16 15 0	17 0 0
Spanish ..		0 0 0	16 10 0
American ..		0 0 0	15 10 0

SHORT AND MARONY, Brokers.

1, Newmarket-court, Cornhill.

NOTICES OF CONTRACTS.

For Masonry and all other work (except Iron-work) to be done in building a Bridge across the river Aron, at Bath.—Mr. Manners, City Architect. Bath. June 25.

For the erection of National Schools, with a residence for the master and mistress, at St. Ives.—J. D. Hopkins, Esq., Architect, 23, Bedford-square, London. June 20.

For building a Lock-up House, at St. Ives.—J. D. Hopkins, Esq., Architect, 23, Bedford-square, London. June 20.

For certain alterations and additions in the Parish Church of Melkham, in the county of Wilts.—Messrs. Wyatt and Brandon, Architects, 78, Great Russell-street, Bloomsbury. June 21.

For the additions and alterations to the County Gaol, at Nottingham and the Nisi Prius Court, is the Shire Hall. (Separate Tenders).—Messrs. Huxtable and Julland, Architects, Nottingham. June 26.

For building Sewers in Old Fish-street, Trinity-lane, and several other streets and places adjacent thereto.—Jos. Davy, Esq., Guildhall. June 25.

For the alterations, improvements, and repairs to the School House in Hatton Garden.—Mr. Cooper, Architect, 1, Versian-buildings, Gray's-lane. June 29.

For the necessary Iron-work of a Bridge of iron arch, 110 feet span, to be built over the river Aron, at Bath.—Drawings, &c., Mr. Manners, Architect, 1, Oxford-row, Bath. June 25.

For the erecting of certain works for the improvement of Aberdeen Harbour.—Plans, &c., Mr. Abernethy, 69, Waterloo-quay, Aberdeen. June 20.

COMPETITIONS.

Plans, &c., are wanted for erecting a Church at Southwell, Notts.—Further particulars, Mr. W. Shaw, Southwell, Notts. The successful competitor will be employed on the usual terms.

A PRIZE of 100 guineas will be given by the commissioners appointed to erect a lunatic asylum in the vicinity of the city of Kingston, Jamaica, to the person who shall produce the best plan, accompanied by a specification, of an asylum for the reception of the insane. The institution must accommodate 200 patients of both sexes, with the requi-